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## **FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**Submitted by** Steve Chilton, Chief, Environmental Improvement Branch, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

**Finding:** Fuel reduction/forest restoration efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin require consistent funding mechanisms. Land management agencies must be able to plan forest fuel reduction projects on a long-term schedule to reach strategic objectives in the 10 Year Fuel Reduction Plan and to generate a sustainable market that will insure reliable contractors are available to work in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

**Background and Supporting Evidence:** Much of the funding for fuel reduction/forest restoration efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin has been generated through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. The Act is not a permanent funding mechanism and requires annual funding requests that compete with non-fire/fuel reduction efforts. Alternative annual funding is needed to provide a continuing, sustainable source that land managers can depend on to implement and maintain these resource management efforts.

**Recommendation:** The Fire Commission recommends to the Governors of the States of Nevada and California that they join with congressional representatives and the Executive Branch to amend the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act as an authorization document to provide a line item annual funding source appropriation for fuel reduction/forest restoration efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The funding request should be at a minimum the amount requested for fuels reduction efforts in Round 8 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act and incorporate cost-effective implementation.

## Impacts of Implementation:

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is REQUIRED (Best Estimate):

- ☐ Cost Transfer of existing annual funding provided by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, including Lake Tahoe and White Pine allotments.
- ☐ Funding source Annual appropriation through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act
- ☐ Staffing Not determined at this time
- ☐ Existing regulations and/or laws No impact on existing regulations and/or laws

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Operational
- ☐ Social
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Policy
- ☐ Health and Safety
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Interagency